

212

JURY 8/24/71

LOS ANGELES(CNS)--THE COUNTY GRAND JURY TODAY ACCUSED THE COUNTY CLERK PERSONNEL OF NOT TAKING PROPER CARE OF THE EXHIBITS IN THE CASE OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

IN A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THE JURY CLAIMED UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS HANDLED EXHIBITS. THE JURY ALSO CONTENDED EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE "MISHANDED" EVIDENCE TO THE POINT WHERE JURORS HAVE RESERVATIONS TO THE "PRESENT INTEGRITY OF THE BALLISTICS EXHIBITS."

THE LETTER WAS SIGNED BY JURY FOREMAN LEO D. EPSTEIN AND FOREMAN PRO TEM CHRISTIAN W. PLANJE (CQ).

AT THE SAME TIME THE LETTER WAS SENT TO THE BOARD, EPSTEIN AND DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD HECHT APPEARED BEFORE SUPERIOR JUDGE RICHARD F.C. HAYDEN SEEKING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY TAKEN DURING THE JURY'S FIVE-DAY INVESTIGATIONS. THE PROBE ENDED YESTERDAY.

JUDGE HAYDEN GRANTED THE MOTION, WHICH WILL SUPPLY FOUR AGENCIES WITH A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT: THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR ITS ARCHIVES ON THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

(MORE)

TT215PM